



one TOGETHER

to reduce risk of surgical site infections



Surgical site infections (SSIs) account for 16%¹ of healthcare associated infections and are associated with considerable morbidity, mortality and increased costs of care.

OneTogether is a partnership between leading professional organisations with an interest in the prevention of SSIs. Our mission is to promote and support the spread and adoption of best practice to prevent SSIs across the surgical patient pathway. By connecting UK infection prevention associations, key industry partners and the health care community we strive to improve overall patient care.

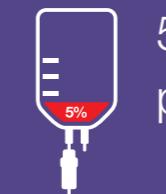
OneTogether aims to:

- **RAISE** the profile of infection prevention and the scientific data supporting the practice.
- **ENGAGE** healthcare professionals and institutions to make a difference at every level to reduce SSI and improve patient outcomes.
- **SHARE** best practice across all specialties.
- **LEVERAGE** the strength and reach of professional associations, industry partners and online platforms to educate and engage.

TIME to make a difference



IMPACT of SSIs



5% of all surgical patients develop a SSI²



Costs at least £3000 to treat³



5 times more likely to be readmitted⁴



Quality of life likely to be significantly affected⁵



Twice as likely to die⁴



Double stay in hospital⁶

1 Health Protection Agency (2012) English national point prevalence survey on healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial use, 2011: preliminary data.

2 Smyth ET et al. (2008) Four Country Healthcare Associated Infection Prevalence Survey 2006: overview of the results. Journal of Hospital Infection; 69:230–48.

3 Plowman R, Graves N, Griffin M et al (1999) The socio-economic burden of hospital acquired infection. London: Public Health Laboratory Service.

4 Kirkland et al (1999) The impact of surgical-site infections in the 1990s: attributable mortality, excess length of hospitalization, and extra costs. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol; 20(11): 725–730.

5 Whitehouse et al. (2002) The impact of surgical-site infections following orthopedic surgery at a community hospital and a university hospital: adverse quality of life, excess length of stay, and extra cost. Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol; 23(4):183–189.

6 Coello R, et al (2005) Adverse impact of surgical site infections in English hospitals J. Hosp. Infect 60: 93–103.



OneTogether frequently hold surgical site infection prevention expert conferences. The aim of these conferences is to bring together operating theatre staff and infection prevention specialists from across the UK and discuss issues associated with good infection prevention. Feedback from these conferences have identified common themes:

Variability in knowledge of, and availability, of policy

Conflict of ideas/opinion

Poor knowledge of evidence

Lack of leadership

Lack of standards to support best practice

Ownership and responsibilities not defined

Importance of practice to prevent SSI not recognised

The **POWER** of collaboration

Collaborating **TODAY** for tomorrow's future

OneTogether aims to provide a collection of free tools to help practitioners reduce the risk of surgical site infection. These tools are created in collaboration with health care practitioners from across the UK which are easy to follow and implement.

TOOLS AVAILABLE NOW

- Standards and Guidance posters
- Infection Prevention Self-Assessment Tool (from April 2016)

FUTURE WORK PROGRAMMES

- Creation of an infection prevention charter for each element of practice across the surgical pathway
- Build a resource of easily accessible education and training tools to empower the health care community on evidence based recommended practice.



To gain access to all these tools and to ensure your invitation to future expert conferences join OneTogether today.

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